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Wivenhoe Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

WILES & SON LTD.,
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Wivenhoe Urban District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wivenhoe Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1937.

The Report is arranged in accordance with instructions set out in the Ministry of Health Circular 1650, dated 4th October, 1937.

You will notice that the Death rate of the District is high as compared with the country as a whole, but is less than last year.

The comparative figures, when adjusted by the figure given by the Registrar General, are 15·1 last year and 13·1 this year.

The Birth rate is very much the same.

I wish to thank Members of the Council and Staff for their co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. ALDERTON,

REBOW CHAMBERS,

SIR ISAAC'S WALK,

COLCHESTER.

19th May, 1938.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area—1,480 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, 1937—2,170.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books (end of 1937)—770.

Rateable Value—£8,513.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£31.

The District is situated on the East bank of the River Colne. The main occupations are Agriculture and employment in Fishing and Yachting.

The District, from the point of view of unemployment, shows very little improvement to previous years.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		M.	F.		TOTAL.		
Live Births	Legitimate	14	12	=	26	Total ...	27
	Illegitimate	1	0	=	1		

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 12·4.

Still Births ..	...	—	—	=	0		
Deaths ...	...	...	...		39	Total ...	39

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 17.9.
Death Rate when adjusted for age and sex by factor supplied = 13·1.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
No. 29, Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
No. 30, other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—
Total	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	111·1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	115·3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Deaths in Various Age Groups (local statistics)—

Age Groups.	No. of Deaths.
0–1	3
1–2	0
2–5	0
5–15	0
15–25	1
25–35	0
35–55	3
55–65	4
65–75	11
75 and upwards	17
	39

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Public Health Officers.

The Medical Officer: W. H. Alderton, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. He is also Medical Officer of Health in the neighbouring Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector: R. H. Barrell. He is also Highway Surveyor for the District.

Nursing in the Home, Clinics and Treatment Centres, Hospitals.

There has been no extension of these services during the year.

Laboratory Facilities.

The County Council have made themselves responsible for laboratory facilities within the County area. The Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. 4, is available for the use of all local authorities within the County. These authorities are now able to have their public water supplies analysed without further expense.

Ambulance Facilities.

The District has an arrangement with the Colchester Corporation for the use of their ambulance in emergency. The Council have made themselves financially responsible where an ambulance is called to necessitous cases.

Ambulance obtained by telephoning H. W. Lee, 35 Campion Road, Colchester, Telephone 2906; or the Garage, Colchester, Telephone 3307.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water.

The District is supplied from the Council's bore, which has given a satisfactory and pure supply during the year.

The supply was analysed with the following result : —

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance : clear and bright. Colour : normal. Odour : nil.
Reaction pH Neutral, 8·0 • Free Carbonic Acid, 0·9

Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	1880	
Total Solids, 180° C.	120·0	
Chlorine in Chlorides	41·6	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	nil	Nitrites absent
Hardness : Permanent	0·0	
Temporary	13·0	
Total	13·0	
Metals	absent	
Free Ammonia	0·0860	Ammoniacal Nitrogen, —
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·0008	Albuminoid Nitrogen, —
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	0·030	

Bacteriological Results

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.				
On Agar in 3 days at 20°		—		
1 day at 37° C.		11		
2 days at 37°		12		
The Bacillus Coli	Present in	—	Absent in	50 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii (B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Present in	—	Absent in	—

There have been eleven connections made to the mains.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The disposal works have been satisfactorily maintained during the year, and the effluent has attained a satisfactory standard of purity.

Fifteen houses have been connected to the Sewer.

There have been no extensions made during the year.

Public Cleansing.

Dry refuse is collected once weekly in the more populous part of the district, and is deposited in a pit under the supervision of the Council. Regular inspection ensures the dump being satisfactorily maintained.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was taken to check the pollution of streams in the District.

Closet Accommodation.

Nearly all properties within reasonable distance of the Sewer are now connected.

There have been four conversions to the water carriage system made during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

Smoke nuisance from a factory chimney was dealt with by informal notice and abated.

Schools.

The two Elementary Schools in the District have been kept in a satisfactory condition; they are both connected to the Sewer and water main.

It was unnecessary to close either on account of Infectious Disease.

Swimming Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No properties have been found to be infested with Bed Bugs.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1937.

Inspections.

Premises inspected	Public Health Act ...	206	
	Housing Acts	30	
			236
Work in progress and property under Notice, visits thereto...			194
Slaughter Houses inspected			45
Butchers' Shops and Food Stores inspected			27
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected			14
Bakehouses and Workshops inspected			25
Appointments and interviews with property owners, etc. ...			11
Number of complaints received			12

Result of above Inspections and Actions taken.

Informal Notices served	18
Houses disinfected	3

Food Inspection.

I give below particulars of carcases inspected:—

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed ...	54	—	—	77	100
Number inspected...	47	—	—	65	89

Description of Work Executed.

Roofs repaired (number of houses)	20
External Walls cement rendered or otherwise treated (Number of houses)	5
Eaves Gutters repaired or renewed (number of houses) ...	11
Defective Drains repaired or relaid	24
Sinks provided	4

Lighting and Ventilation.

Windows repaired or renewed or made to open (number of houses)	6

Cleanliness.

Accumulation of Refuse removed (number of houses) ...	7

Closet Accommodation.

Water Closets provided with flushing cisterns	3
Privies and Pan Closets converted to Water Closets ...	0
Closets repaired or renewed	5

Water Supply.

Houses provided with supply from public mains ...	11
Pumps repaired or renewed	0

Miscellaneous.

Ashbins provided, covered galvanized	66
Floors repaired or renewed (number of houses)	8
Doors repaired or renewed (number of houses)	6
Internal Plastering repaired or renewed (number of houses)...	7
External plastering or boarding repaired or renewed (number of houses)	5
Fireplaces repaired or renewed (number of houses) ...	5

Chimneys repaired (number of houses)	6
Stairs repaired (number of houses)	5
Defective External Walls repaired or rebuilt (number of houses)	5
Yard Paving provided (number of houses)	3

Factories and Workshops.

Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	6

Slaughter-Houses.

Slaughter-houses cleansed and limewashed	20

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cow Sheds cleansed and limewashed	16
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	10

Housing Statistics.

(1) *Number of New Houses erected during the year :—*

(i) By the Local Authority	0
(ii) By other Local Authorities	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	11
Total ...	11

(2) *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

i. (a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	236
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .	258
ii. (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) (above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	0
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	0
iii. Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
iv. Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	8

(3) *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices* :—

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 18

(4) *Action under Statutory Powers during the year* :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 0

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... 0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 0

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... 0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

(5) *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding* :—

(a)	i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
	ii. Number of families dwelling therein ...	1
	iii. Number of persons dwelling therein ...	7
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c)	i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	7
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY:

All Dairy Farms and Dairies comply with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, etc., and have been inspected at regular intervals

Samples of milk are sent from time to time to the Counties Laboratory for analysis, and in addition samples of milk are submitted by officers of the County Council for biological and other tests.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

Slaughter-houses, butchers' shops and other food stores have been regularly inspected, and cleanliness is ensured.

Slaughter-houses have been visited usually at the time of killing.

The Sanitary Inspector does not hold a Food Inspector's Certificate, but all animals are inspected by a Veterinary officer in the Borough prior to their being brought into the District for slaughter.

During the year the following food was condemned :—

8 boxes of Fish.
3 boxes of Herrings.
3 boxes of Kippers.
3 boxes of Haddocks

Adulterations, Etc.

No action was taken by the Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1928, Artificial Cream Act, 1929, The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations 1923 and 1927, The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations 1923 and 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations 1925 and 1927.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The Counties Public Health Laboratory is used by the Council for the examination of food. It is mainly used by the Authority for the examination of the standard of cleanliness of milk and ice cream.

Nutrition.

Dissemination of knowledge is arranged for by the County Council and takes place through the Child Welfare Centre.

Shellfish.

The only kinds of shellfish brought into the district are Shrimps, collected at the Estuary ; they are prepared for canning at the local Factory by home workers, whose premises and persons are inspected to ensure cleanliness.

There is no liability to pollution from this source.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The District has been fairly free from infectious disease during the year, there being only one case of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria notified, both of which were nursed at home.

The arrangement with the Colchester Corporation for Hospital accommodation has been continued, and the number of beds available has always been adequate for the needs of the District.

Minor infectious diseases were prevalent in the spring. 72 cases of Measles came to notice and 20 cases of Whooping Cough, none of which were of a serious character.

Artificial immunisation against Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever is not provided for.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from disease or injury of the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Table of Notifiable Disease.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Died.
Diphtheria ...	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	0

Table of Incidence of Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1–5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
44–55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55–65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

REPORT on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
FACTORIES ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	7	—	—
WORKSHOPS ... . (Including Workshop Laundries)	18	—	—
WORKPLACES ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	25	—	—

2.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects. Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M Inspector (4)	Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—**				
Want of cleanliness				
Want of ventilation...				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	3	3		
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient				
Sanitary accommodation { not separate for sexes ...				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences .. .. (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	3	3		

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.